



Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs
John O. Pastore Center
Benjamin Rush-Building #55
35 Howard Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO PHARMACISTS: **MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS AND RIPAE**

February 15, 2006

The Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs would like to clarify how the Rhode Island Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly (RIPAE) program will work in conjunction with Medicare Prescription Drug (Part D) plans. By following the instructions contained herein, you will be ensuring that RIPAE clients will receive maximum benefits from both their state and federal prescription drug programs. Please be advised that under current law, RIPAE cannot contribute to a RIPAE client's co-payment while they are using their Part D plans. Accordingly, please process prescription drug claims as follows:

- ❖ RIPAE will pay the allowable percentage of a qualified prescription while the client is in the deductible phase of their Part D plan. Depending on a person's Part D plan, the deductible can range from \$0 to \$250.
- ❖ After a RIPAE client has reached his/her Plan D deductible, **all claims must be processed through their Part D plan. RIPAE has no responsibility for co-payments while a person is using the benefits in their Part D plan.**
- ❖ RIPAE will pay the allowable percentage of a qualified prescription when a client reaches the coverage gap phase of their Part D plan, if applicable. **After a RIPAE client has reached his \$3,600 annual out-of-pocket expense, all claims should be processed under the catastrophic provisions of their Part D coverage. RIPAE has no responsibility for co-payments while a person is using the catastrophic coverage benefits of their Part D plan.**

Your compliance with these instructions is required. Thank you.

Sincerely,
RI Department of Elderly Affairs

